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26. (Amended) A method for forming a sheet of polymeric material, comprising the steps of:

heating the sheet to a first temperature wherein the sheet is heated past a glass transition temperature and said sheet achieves a glass transition state;

terminating heating of said sheet prior to placing in first and second mold halves;

retaining the sheet between first and second mold halves of a forming mold with the sheet supported along a peripheral edge of one of said first and second mold halves;

generating a vacuum on one side of the sheet thereby drawing the sheet into an interior space of one of said first and second mold halves while a center portion of the sheet remains supported in space relationship to said first and second mold halves; and

cooling the sheet from said first temperature to a second temperature upon achieving a specified draw depth of the sheet within one of said first and second mold halves.

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31. (Amended) A method for forming a sheet of polymeric material as set forth in claim 29, wherein said trimming of said perimeter is achieved using a series of blades disposed about a perimeter of one of said first and second halves, wherein each of said blades includes an angled cutting edge thereby providing a series of progressive trimming sections along said perimeter.

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